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William Ramsay to George Washington, August 31, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM WILLIAM RAMSAY, ESQ.

CAMP NEAR RAYS TOWN August. 31st 1758.

DR. SIR

Since my last nothing remarkable hath occurr'd, only an Express by Colo. Burd from the Mountains, is suppos'd to be gon to Fort Du Quesne. This may be of very ill consequence indeed, It seems this fellow was for sometime a Prisoner amongst them, & had the character of a great willain, yet was made one of the Pennsylvania Light Horse, & intrusted it seems with affairs of such moment; how imprudt. this was, needs no comment. Another sent down to the Genl. is tho't, to be taken.

Amidst this gloom of ill fortune & delays, we have the strongest assurances of Louisburg being ours, that our Fleet ravages the Coast of France & that we may hope some important blow may be struck there, God grant this, for I'm affraid, as I hinted before, Loyal Hannan will be our utmost effort this year. The Genl. was to leave Shippenburg at yesterday, but I am affraid he neither is, nor will be able to get here this season. I cannot divine why Men born down with age & infirmities & thereby rendered incapable of action, should be imploy'd in affairs of such momt. & in a Country that requires robustness to bear fatigue, resolution to execute with celerity this enterprise; especially as we have great reason to suppose, chief part of their force were employ'd to Oppose Genl. Abercrombie, & how dear Genl. Braddock's delays cost us.

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I daily hope to be releas'd. from this place; my affairs really call me home, tho; my stay will be short there, for I must soon set out for Williamsburg, where you may probably have some affairs to transact Wch the greatest care shall be taken of if intrusted to me. Yesterday an old Indian named Capatee, who was sent about three Weeks ago from this place, has been at Loggs Town & some other adjacent ones, & has bro't. with him three Indians of the Six nations, but what they report has not transpir'd. I have nothing further to add, but a tender of any service in the power of Dr. Sir

Your very H. Servt. WM RAMSAY